

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 43-51, of which Claims 43, 46, and 49 are independent. Claims 1-42 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Claims 43-51 are newly added.

As the Examiner will appreciate, independent Claim 43 is a method claim while independent Claims 46 and 49 are storage medium and program claims which correspond to the method of Claim 43.

In view of the above newly presented claims and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Initially, Applicant submits that the newly presented claims corresponds generally to Group II which had been elected and thus not constitute a new election.

Independent Claim 43 is directed to an information process method of generating print data based on template data which includes a front cover page, a body page and a back cover page. The method includes the steps of fitting one or more desired original images in one or more placing frames of the body page and generating an output body page, setting whether the back cover page is positioned on an independent sheet of the output body page and a positioning step such that when a final output body page is positioned on a front page of a sheet and it is set in the setting step that the back cover page is positioned on an independent sheet of the output body page, generating an insert page at a back of the final output body page and positioning the back cover page on a back page of the next sheet. Alternately, when a final output body page is positioned on a front page of a sheet and it is set in the setting step that the back cover page is positioned on an independent sheet of the output body page, positioning the

back cover page on a back page of the same sheet of the final output body page. Finally, a generating step is provided for generating a print data of pages positioned in the positioning step.

Claim 49 is directed to a program for a computer and which performs the steps of method Claim 43, and Claim 46 is directed to a storage medium holding such a program.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of the newly presented claims is patentably distinguishable over the applied art of record.

Yoshioka (U.S. Patent No. 5,713,061) is directed to an image forming apparatus and provides that when the cover mode is designated (see step S2 in Figure 4A) a back cover sheet can be attached and a mode for copying on both sides of the back cover sheet or a mode for copying only on the back side of the back cover sheet can be selected.

Abe (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,069) is also directed to an image forming apparatus which is able to combine printing of an original image and a previously registered form image.

However, neither of the applied references are understood to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus which generates print data to be printed by a printer based on template data which includes a front cover page, a body page and a back cover page, in which there is a fitting step for fitting one or more desired original images in one or more placing frames of the body page and generating an output body page. Indeed, Abe merely suggests a synthesizing step for synthesizing two images (see, column 11, line 59 through column 12, line 11).

Nor do either of the applied references teach or suggest a setting step for setting whether the back cover page is positioned on an independent sheet of the output body page or a positioning step of, when a final output body page is positioned on a front page of a

sheet and it is set in the setting step that the back cover page is positioned on an independent sheet of the output body page, generating an insert page at the back of the final output body page and positioning the back cover page on the back page of the sheet.

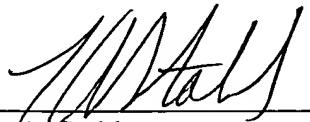
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as now presented are distinguishable over the art of record. Accordingly, Claims 43, 46 and 49 are believed distinguishable over that art.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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